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Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for configuring a first network device in a communication network, comprising:
selecting one or more subsets of a plurality of standardized network equipment configuration parameters, each subset comprising multiple configuration parameters by setting a variable to a certain value corresponding to the subset;
representing each one or more subset by a unique value;
saving the unique values corresponding to ~~representing~~ the selected subsets to a configuration file on a server ~~with a user interface, thereby creating a configuration file that governs switches executed by the network device to switch on and/or off subsets of standardized network equipment configuration parameters according to unique values representing the subsets but not comprising the multiple configuration parameters of the subsets themselves;~~
loading the configuration file from the server to a first network device; and
setting software switches within the first network device ~~based on~~ according to the unique values in the configuration file, thereby switching on and/or off subsets of standardized network equipment configuration parameters within the network device according to the representative unique values in the configuration file.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the subset or subsets are selected with a user interface.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user interface is a computing device
4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the computing device is a personal computer.

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5. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the computing device is a personal digital assistant.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 where in the server is a trivial file transfer protocol server.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first network device is an embedded MTA.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the communication features facilitate communication between the first network device and a second network device.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the second network device is a cable modem termination system.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the second network device is a PacketCable provisioning server.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the second network device is a media gateway.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the second network device is a PacketCable call management server.

13. (Currently Amended) A system for configuring a first network device in a communication network, comprising:
means for setting each of one or more communication parameter variables to a value ~~corresponding to~~ representing one or more subsets of a plurality of standardized network equipment configuration parameters, each parameter variable value representing multiple configuration parameters;

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means for saving the entered representative values to a configuration file, thereby creating a configuration file that governs switches executed by the first network device to switch on and/or off subsets of standardized network equipment configuration parameters according to the representative values;

means for loading the configuration file to the first network device; and

means for setting software switches within the first network device based on according to the parameter values in the configuration file, thereby switching on and/or off subsets of standardized network equipment configuration parameters within the network device according to the parameter values in the configuration file that represent the subsets but which do not comprise the multiple configuration parameters of the subsets themselves.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the means for selecting and accepting includes a user interface.

15. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the means for saving is a computer.

16. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the means for loading includes a server.

17. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the software switches are TLV variables that determine the data to be included in a communication message between the first network device and a second network device.

18. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the means for setting the software switches includes operating system software and logic circuitry, the logic circuitry, being under the control of the operating system software, being capable of inserting information into a communication message based on the configuration file.

Claims 19-25. (Cancelled)